

Podcast Transcript

U.S. Mission Nigeria EducationUSA Advising Center

Frequently Asked Questions

Music/Standard Intro:

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Opening Narration: EducationUSA is a global network of more than 400 advising centers supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, including Nigeria. We spoke to EducationUSA Advisor Jennifer Onyukwu in Abuja on important steps to U.S. study.

1. How can I go to the U.S. to study?

I will like to recommend that you start by visiting the EducationUSA information site and the Nigerian Education Advising Centers. The website information for both is as follows: www.EducationUSA.info and http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/educational_advising.html.

2. When can I apply to study in the U.S.?

International students applying for undergraduate admissions in the U.S. should start the process at least 12 months in advance. While graduate students should plan 12-18 months in advance of their intended date of study.

3. Can I gain admission to a college or university without the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)?

Various institutions in the U.S. have different admissions requirements. Typically, most international students are required to write the TOEFL test or IELTS test. Some institutions may waive the TOEFL test for international students, who can demonstrate their English proficiency in some other forms. Either through another standardized test, writing samples or demonstrable proof of English as a medium of instruction and communication.

4. Can I get financial aid from a U.S. college or university?

Scholarships and funding are available for international students applying to study at U.S. institutions. These funds are very limited and competitive.

5. When can I apply for financial aid?

International students are advised to apply for financial assistance while applying for admission. For graduate students, about 44% of all funding comes from the U.S. institutions, while another 48% comes from student's personal funds or family budget and the other 8% comes from foundations, host country governments and other sources.

6. If I don't have a scholarship, how much money do I need to study in the U.S. for one year?

Tuition and fees vary from institution to institution. The average cost of attending a U.S. school is usually between \$25,000 to \$40,000 per annum.

7. Can I get a job while I'm studying?

International students are only allowed to work on campus while studying in the U.S. On campus work is not for more than 20 hours a week.

8. What score do I need on the TOEFL to be admitted?

Again, different institutions have different scores for various standardized tests. For TOEFL, a minimum of 80 out of the total of 120 is generally accepted but for graduate admissions with funding, a 100 out of 120 is minimum accepted score.

9. What other examinations do I need to take?

Other standardized tests include, SAT 1 & II for undergraduate applicants; Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for graduate students applying for programs in sciences, engineering, academia and PhD; and the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) is for graduate students applying for business or management programs.

10. Do I need TOEFL for graduate studies?

Again, it depends on the institution and the program. For students applying for scholarships or any type of graduate assistantship, a TOEFL score is required.

11.Are there other specific tests that I must pass for graduate admission, and what score do I need on these tests?

As mentioned previously, you have the GRE or the GMAT tests. There are also other graduate tests by program. But the GRE and GMAT are the most popular.

12.Is it important for the college or university to be accredited?

Accreditation of programs and universities is very important. Organizations and institutions do not recognize certificates from unaccredited institutions.

13.How do I get a student visa?

Students can apply for student visa either at the U.S. Embassy in Abuja or U.S. Consulate Lagos.

14.If I have a passport, an I-20, and funds for one year of study, will I get a visa?

All visas are adjudicated at the consular window during an interview.

15.And, where can I get more information on all of these?

For more information on studying in the U.S. please feel free to attend the EducationUSA Advising Centers' free general orientation sessions that take place every Wednesday in Abuja and Lagos. See details below.

Abuja:

Day: Every Wednesday(except on American or Nigerian holidays)
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Venue: Cyprian Ekwensi Center for Arts & Culture
Area 10 Garki

Lagos:

Day: Every Wednesday(except on American or Nigerian holidays)
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Venue: U. S. Consulate General

Public Affairs Section
2 Walter Carrington Crescent
Victoria Island-Lagos

16. Who are EducationUSA/EAC, and where are they located in Nigeria?

EducationUSA Advising Centers in Abuja and Lagos are part of a network of over 400 advising centers supported by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. EducationUSA Advising Centers provide current and unbiased information on all accredited institutions in the U.S. to students interested in studying in the U.S.

The address for the EducationUSA Advising Center in Abuja is

Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive, Central Business District.

While the Lagos Advising Center is located at

U. S. Consulate General
Public Affairs Section
2 Walter Carrington Crescent
Victoria Island-Lagos

17. Thanks Jennifer, but how can I participate in the EducationUSA/EAC's programs?

The EducationUSA Advising Center runs a membership program that registers qualified students for its program. The minimum qualification for undergraduate student is a minimum of 5 credits including credit in English and Math. For Graduate students, it is a minimum of second class lower division.

Interested students are required to purchase an EAC application form for \$10 and once approved for membership, pay \$200 or its naira equivalent for the membership. The membership is valid for one academic session.

18. And once I am registered as a member, what are the benefits?

Members of the Advising Center have access to individual educational advising sessions with seasoned and qualified educational advisors.

They have access to assistance with navigating the U.S. admissions process and negotiating financial aid for qualified students.

We also provide capacity building workshops and sessions to strengthen academic preparedness for applying to U.S. schools.

And a host of other services.

Conclusion:

Thank you Jennifer, it has been a pleasure talking to you. The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through personal and professional ties between private citizens in the United States and abroad, as well as by presenting U.S. history, society, art and culture in all of its diversity to overseas audiences. U.S. and foreign students alike can prepare for leadership roles in today's world through an international education. You too can benefit from the program.

Music/Outro/Standard

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